

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-08 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 LAB-04
SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 OTPE-00
USPS-01 /084 W

-----092232 140310Z /64-65

R 131743Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0296
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS DUBLIN 00862

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ETEL, EAIR, EI
SUBJECT: AIR STRIKE THREATENED AS TELEPHONE/TELEX
STRIKE CONTINUES

REF; DUBLIN 551; DUBLIN 378

1. AER LINGUS CLERICAL WORKERS ARE THREATENING A
STRIKE TO BEGIN AT NOON ON MARCH 14. SINCE MOST
AIRPORT EMPLOYEES AT DUBLIN AND CORK AIRPORTS HAVE
INDICATED THEY WOULD RESPECT PICKET LINES, THE
THREATENED STRIKE COULD VIRTUALLY CLOSE DUBLIN
AND CORK AIRPORTS AND SERIOUSLY DISRUPT OPERATIONS
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AT SHANNON. THIS WOULD OCCUR AT THE BUSIEST PERIOD
OF THE YEAR (ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND EASTER). FRANTIC
LAST MINUTE EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO PREVENT THE
STRIKE, AND ONE HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TOLD US
CHANCES ARE "BETTER THAN EVEN" THAT A SOLUTION WILL
BE PATCHED UP, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEEN DOING A VERY GOOD JOB AT

PREVENTING STRIKES LATELY. THE MAIN ISSUE IN THIS DISPUTE IS A PRODUCTIVITY, INEQUITY AND COST OF LIVING CLAIM FOR INCREASED PAY.

2. THE CRIPPLING TELEPHONE/TELEX/POSTAL STRIKE CONTINUES INTO ITS SIXTH WEEK (SEE REFTELS). THERE IS A SLIGHT CHANCE IT MAY END NEXT WEEK. THE 6000 STRIKING TECHNICIANS ARE BALLOTING ON A PROPOSED SOLUTION. BALLOTS SHOULD BE IN BY FRIDAY, MARCH 17, AND THE EXECUTIVE OF THE STRIKING UNION WILL MEET MARCH 20. THE BALLOTING SO FAR APPEARS TO BE CLOSE, AND THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT THE UNION EXECUTIVE CAN ENFORCE AN AGREEMENT EVEN IF A MAJORITY ARE IN FAVOR.

3. TELEPHONE AND TELEX SERVICES REMAIN SPORODIC AT BEST, THOUGH SOME EXTERNAL LINKS ARE BEING MAINTAINED. THE DISRUPTION OF POSTAL SERVICES IS JUST BEGINNING TO BE FELT, BUT SOME MAIL IS GETTING HELD UP. WE REQUEST THAT ADDRESSEES USE ONLY POUCH UNTIL THIS STRIKE IS SETTLED. SHANNON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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